**Russian Jack Community Council**

**September 13, 2017**

33 present, including presenters

**Wonder Park Elementary report**

- Remodeling proposals – John Weir
- Mechanical and electrical upgrades, roof replacement, new insulation in pod areas, walls, and other upgrades and remodeling
- Design done in October, design development in mid-January, school bonds in spring
- Principal Sean: New state testing results Sept 22 which is a baseline year, new kindergarten curriculum, testing a new math curriculum adopted a few years ago.
- **Open house Sept 14th**
- Lights in parking lot of school are on a timer and it's extremely dark at night. Principal looking into it.
- It may help for the Community Council to write a letter of concern

**Movement introduced and seconded to support additional lighting at Wonder park elementary playground area and parking lots for increased public safety.**

All in favor - 20

Opposed- 0

**Legislative Report**

**Rep. Geran Tarr**

- Another special session coming up
- Public safety is a key concern as of late. Many are saying it's all related to SB91. Had recent public safety meeting with community members, police and Anchorage Opioid task force.
    - Currently have about 400 police now in Anchorage but it will be about 18 months until they are out on patrol. A city of our size it should be 600-700.
    - Got 4 million dollars more for public safety but the change will be slow
    - District attorney Office is down about 50 positions. Prosecuting sexual assaults, homicides and offences involving minors. Need to be careful where we cut the budget because this is an unintended consequence of budget cuts.
    - SB91 changed definition of what constitutes as a felony *for the first offence only. Will consider this in upcoming special session*
    - January 2018 will see an increase oversight of those on probation. This will be helpful because there is a high recidivism rate in AK of people cycling through the justice system with no changes in behavior.
- In special session will discuss SB54 which would change the penalty for first time offenders back to what it was before which involved jail time
- Considering a head tax or sales tax statewide, taxing workers who live in other states, tapping into PFD, and other options
- Pushing for reform of processing of untested rape kits, HB31
    - Oftentimes they were not tested because it was a known perp

        - Often find serial rapists by testing the kits
        - Law requires an audit and enforces transparency of results of audit
        - May link to a national database so information can be shared with other states to bring down perps who come to AK to escape their crime scenes

Senator Bill Wielechowski aide

    - Working on preparing for next special session Oct 23
    - Bill would like to see SB54 added to the agenda, which fixes SB91
    - Protection of PFD
    - **Spirit of Muldoon picnic Sat Sept 16 at Creekside Park, 1pm– all are welcome**
    - Addressing snow plowing issues with muni

Senator Begich Aide

    - Interested in working on education issues, environmental issues, echoed public safety concerns
    - Worked on a letter from Senate Democrats with concerns about what happened in Charlottesville

Rep. Spohnhotz aide

    - Second Saturday coffees at new location, contact office or visit at anchorage LIO

**<u>Assembly Report</u>**

**Assemblyman Pete Peterson**

- Last night's anchorage assembly meeting voted to add a youth member to the assembly to serve 6-12 months. Look forward to getting a youth's input.
- Million dollars towards resolving flood relief at Chester Creek
- Muldoon park – working on phase 1, running behind due to rain, ribbon cutting ceremony postponed until next year. Park foundation awarded a $500,000 grant by fed to work on phase 2.
- This summer Muni lost lawsuit that was filed by two former police officers will cost $3 mil. Dollars.
- New police chief Mew as of this summer
- There will be a vote by mail election in April. Vote sorting machine has arrived. Will be validated by signature verification. Many other places in the US have vote by mail systems with no problems.
- Public safety committee meeting last week to discuss spike in crime. Many reasons for the uptick in crime, including opioid addiction. No easy or short term solution but education and enforcing laws and doctors who over-prescribe.

**Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar**

- Named Muldoon park after traditional Denaina place name which made assembly pass ordinance to force people to consider naming things after traditional lands
- Passed ordinance that bans new sales of mayday trees (prunis patis) in city. Can add more invasive species to this ordinance in future if we need to.

- Big project at Elmore and Tudor involves a land swap, will put in $160 million grocery store and facility. Also will make senior center downtown. Will move ASD bus barn to land near Totem 8 theatre.
- ASD will work with private health insurance, Vera Whole Health, to create a primary care clinic expects to save $11 million dollars.
- Muni has cut every department except for police dept. this past year.

**School Board Report, Kathleen Plunkett**

- May eventually put a school in at the site near Totem 8 theatre
- Save your box tops and bring them in during each community council meeting please!

**FCC report, James Smallwood**

- Map of neighborhood, will keep at Wonder Park

**Anchorage Metro Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Bicycle Plan Implementation – CRW Engineering, Collin Singleton**

- Second phase of bicycle plan implementation project
- Takes 2010 bike plan and implementing it like any other project
- Peterkin ave, Pine street and McCary street, Mountain view drive and other components– bike boulevards and bike lane project which makes it safer for bicyclists and pedestrians
- This will impact parking lanes along Pine street- removing ability to park on opposite side of street from polar bear park and a few others areas. Bike lane on both sides.
- **Public meeting Sept 27 Wed 5:30pm at Selkregg Chalet at Russian Jack park**
- Project will include 2 speed cushions and lowering speed to 25 mph
- Projects timeline – Going out for bid in 2018, construction in 2019
- If people park where they are not supposed to once project implemented, people can submit complaints to non-emergency police number
- If you want to submit comments or get more information about this project, go to www.anchoragebikeplan.com

Resident concerns

- Boniface and 4th- lots of vehicle accidents that are impacting their driveways and houses
- Boniface street is a state road and 4th is a city road
- Wrote letter to state to put a safety rail in this area
- Will get connected to Rep Spohnholtz

Motion to support a request for state and/or muni to install or other protections a safety rail at Boniface and 4th introduced by Helena Gish, seconded by Renea Miller

In favor – 19

Opposed -0

Motion passed

**Ed Leach, President -** Distributed book on land use, 2040 land use plan for Anchorage